

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01683 250638Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 SSM-05 /086 W
-----128611 250857Z /13

R 241523Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7371
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1683

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIA ADMITS US-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES

1. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO USUAL PRACTICE SINCE SADAT'S
JERUSALEM VISIT, SYRIAN MEDIA ADMIT BY CITING ISRAELI RADIO
AND FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES THAT RIFTS HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE
ISRAELI-US RELATIONSHIP. TISHRIIN EDITORIAL MARCH 24 STATES
THAT CARTER-BEGIN TALKS HAVE ENDED WITHOUT ANY AGREEMENT AND
CHARACTERIZES THIS AS "A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT WORTHY OF
ATTENTION." HOWEVER, RATHER THAN ADMIT THAT SADAT'S
INITIATIVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE DIFFERENCES, TISHRIIN
CHOOSES TO DRAW OPPOSITE CONCLUSIONS INCLUDING:
--US DOES NOT HOLD 99 PERCENT OF THE CARDS BUT DOES
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01683 250638Z

HAVE 99 PERCENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR "ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVE
AND HARDLINE ATTITUDE;"
--THE PROBLEM IS NOT 70 PERCENT PSYCHOLOGICAL;
--MAKING CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL ONLY LEADS TO A MORE
"INTRANSIGENT" ISRAELI POSITION; AND
--SADAT INITIATIVE HAS FAILED AND DAMAGED THE ARAB
POSITION.

2. ADDITIONALLY EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT US HAS INTERNATIONAL AND ENERGY CONCERNS WHICH CAUSE IT TO REFUSE "ISRAELI EXTREMISM," ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT IT HAS NOT REACHED THE POINT OF EISENHOWER'S WILLINGNESS TO FORCE A SINAI WITHDRAWAL IN 1956.

3. THIS IS A TURNABOUT FROM EDITORIALS OF PREVIOUS DAY IN WHICH US WAS SEEN OBJECTING TO BEGIN'S POSITIONS ONLY BECAUSE IT DID NOT SERVE US STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES WHICH INCLUDED "PREOCCUPYING AND DIVIDING THE ARABS." BEGIN'S POSITIONS WERE SEEN TO BE OBSTRUCTING THE US WISH TO AID SADAT IN CARRYING OUT HIS "CAPITULATIONIST POLICY."
MURPHY

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NNN

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Disposition Remarks:
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